

WELCOME

Our hope is that you will experience God our Father's love in our worship service today. Guests, we are happy you are with us and hope we have extended to you a warm welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask any member about our church and the activities we offer. The informative information, located in the bins in the back of the church, provides some of St. Luke's history.

Please let us know you were with us today by signing the BLUE REGISTRATION PAD located at the end of each pew.

Church Office: 843-705-3022
Mailing Address: PO Box 2779
Bluffton, SC 29910
Location: 3080 Okatie Hwy., Bluffton 29909
Website: www.stlukesumc-okatie.org
Church's email address: stlukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com

Pastor's Mailing Address: Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Thompson
465 Live Oak Walk
Bluffton, SC 29910
Cell phone: 864-704-0728
Email address: clthompson@umcsc.org

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PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please text or call his cell phone (864-704-0728) for an appointment to be sure he doesn't have a prior commitment.

MEETINGS:

Tuesday, April 7 – 9:00 - Trustees
Wednesday, April 8 - 1:00 – Missions (meeting in **Sanctuary**)
Wednesday, April 8 - 2:00 – CPR/AED training
Tuesday, April 14 - 3:30 – Visions Committee



Palm Sunday

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

MARK 1:3

and their family on the passing of June Hamilton, long-time member of St. Luke's, on March 24.



St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Where Friends and Faith Meet
Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Thompson

Marsha Gerber, Music Director

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

Greeters & Ushers:
Bonnie & Lee van Rensburg

PRELUDE: "Alleluia"

Piano/Organ Duet

Marsha Gerber and Joann Sandruck

THREE BELLS

Chiming of the Trinity

(See our prayer list)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

OPENING PRAYER

CANTATA (Please see insert)

POSTLUDE: "Ah, Holy Jesus"

- Crueger

Cantata Musicians, Choir and Speakers:

Music Director/Pianist - Marsha Gerber

The Chancel Choir - Carole Bethel, Armen Hagopian,

Charlene King, Allyn Perdue, Will Ross,

Joann Sandruck, Pat Schwartz, Kathy Smith

Narrator - Nancy Sarisak

Angel - Michele Elek

Jesus - Darrell Cady



MISSIONS

BLUFFTON SELF HELP – Please note, donations will be collected on the SECOND Sunday in April, APRIL 12. Items can also be left in the basket in Fellowship Hall. See Lois Willig with questions.

PRITCHARDVILLE - The Multi Language Department at Pritchardville Elementary will be holding a ML Family Game Night. We have been asked if we could help with specific “prizes.” If you are able to get any of the following items, please place them in the bin marked ML Night in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, APRIL 19:

- Sticker Books,
 - Socks (any size),
 - Family board or card games: UNO, Monopoly, Life
 - Sensory toys such as Slime, Jenga, Legos
 - Disinfectant wipes, cleaning spray, paper towels
 - Gift cards \$5 - \$10 for Dollar Stores, Fast Food Places
- See Lois Willig 843-304-1086 with questions.

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY – We will NOT be having Prayer Blanket Ministry in March.

AGAPE FAMILY LIFE CENTER – 5855 Okatie Hwy., Hardeeville. Saturdays and Wednesdays, 10:00:-12:00. Help distribute fresh food to local families in need. No advanced sign-up needed - just show up.

If you are going through an illness or another crisis and can use support, please let us know. Marie Baldauf leads this ministry, which can help by providing a meal, a visit, or caring phone calls. Please contact Marie.

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Please send information for UPCOMING MEETINGS, BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS and the PRAYER REQUEST LIST to Amy Erickson and Linda Metcalf.

PRAYER REQUESTS

CONGREGANTS

Ruth Dolan	Judi & Gary Landin	Andy & Sharon Makarick
Amy Dauplaise	Thomas Cook	Harold Prosser
Mim Mazon	Lois Finch	Dawn Hall

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie Baldauf
 Beverly Byrd, friend of Cynthia Thompson
 Daughter of Don McKay
 Debbie Hamilton, sister-in-law of Diana & Walker Hamilton
 Dale Lawrence, nephew of Jerry Vagnier
 Diane Gorden, mother of Megan Sytsma
 Diane Oder, friend of Diana Hamilton
 Steve Rose, friend of Candace Payne
 Pete Burger, friend of Jane Tiffany
 John, grandnephew of Meg Carmody
 Todd Rohde, son of Rich Rohde
 Angie, Karl and Zahn, son and family of Bill Husson
 Pat Lawn, brother of Carol Jackson
 Donna Lewis, sister of Tina Topoleski
 Pat, neighbor of Janet Jacoby
 Dottie Apgar, former member
 Debbie, sister of Diana Hamilton
 Diane Losk, friend of several church members
 Jonathan Bethel, grandson of Alan and Carole Bethel
 Joe, husband of Lynn Cutshall
 Ed Molchan, friend of Diana Hamilton
 Kiwana James, friend of Cynthia Thompson
 Brian, Wanda and Ken Wooden, friends of Dawn Hall
 Jessica Smoltz, friend of Shirley Hamilton
 Rebecca, friend of Leslie Van
 Jennifer, friend of Sherri Prosser
 Karen, friend of Tina Blount
 Jan, neighborhood friend of Judi Landin
 Jim and Larua, friends of Susie and Michael Brown
 Barbara and Al, friends of Susie and Michael Brown
 Steven Nelson, friend of Marie Baldauf
 June, sister of Janet Jacoby
 Jessica, friend of Janet Jacoby
 Judy Boswell, friend of Sheryll Ingram
 Linda Lorick, sister of Ouida Dell
 Scottie, grandson of friend of Nettie Peck
 Arthur Cooler, friend of JW Harper
 Janet Frieden, sister-in-law of Sheryll Ingram

EASTER LILIES - If you would like to have an Easter Lily placed in front of St. Luke's on Easter morning, please pick up an order form from the back of the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Clearly fill in your name(s) and the name(s) for dedication of the lily. (In "memory of" for those we've lost or "in honor of" those still here with us.) These names will be included in our Easter bulletin. **The cost is \$15.00 each.** If paying by check, please make it payable to "St. Luke's UMC" with "Lilies" on the memo line. Return this form to Lois Willig or place in the offering plate. **The Deadline for ordering is TODAY.** You have an option to take the lily home following our Easter service, or we will donate it to a shut-in. Questions, see Lois Willig 843-304-1086.

ST. JOHN IN EXILE – Church of the Palms will be showing this movie at 4:00 p.m. TODAY in their Fellowship Hall. St. Luke's is invited to attend.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Hand washing, time of reflection, communion. There are signup sheets in Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary to let Nancy Sariscak know how many to prepare for. Please feel free to contact her with any questions.

EASTER SUNDAY – we will have ONE SERVICE at 9:15 a.m.

A Memorial Service will be held for our long-standing member, BILL TRAINER, at St. Luke's on Wednesday APRIL 8th. If you are able to help with menu or at reception meal, please see Lois Willig.

HISTORIC TOURS - Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 16, we will conduct tours on the 3rd Thursday of each month. These tours will be open to the community. No reservations are necessary.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – 8:00 a.m. Monday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Contact Alan Bethel or Dr. Lee van Rensburg for additional information.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Thursdays; meet & greet at 5:30; study from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our current study is the Book of Revelation. Please bring your Bibles.

CHOIR PRACTICE – Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Aaron Metropolis, 3/30
Janet Jacoby, 3/31
Kennedy Pryor, 4/5

ANNIVERSARIES

None this week

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Carole and Alan Bethel in celebration of their 60th anniversary on March 26, 2026.

CPR and AED TRAINING: Joe Cservek has arranged for training by Sam at the Bluffton Fire Department on Wednesday, April 8th at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. While everyone is invited to attend and participate, it is particularly important that those who have previously signed up to attend actually do attend, as 7 people are required to participate in order for the Bluffton Fire Department to agree to travel to us to train.

Our thanks to Pat Simmons for her tradition of making such special Palm Crosses. She's not here to hand them out because she had to go back to NC. Pat thanks Lois for passing them out!

St. Luke's Palm Sunday Music Cantata

"What a Morning!"

Written by Jay Althouse & Sally Albrecht

Directed by Marsha Gerber

Call to Worship: *Psalms 118:24*

Narrator: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

All: Hosanna! Praise the Lord!

Will Ross: "The Holy City"

FIRST READING: *Matthew 21:8-9*

Narrator: When Jesus approached Jerusalem, large crowds spread their cloaks on the road while others cut palm branches and spread them along the way. And the crowds that went before Jesus and those that followed Him shouted:

All: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!

Choir: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (Congregation wave palm branches.)

SECOND READING: *John 12:23-28*

Narrator: At the Passover festival, Jesus spoke to Andrew and Philip saying:

Jesus: The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Verily I say: a single grain of wheat left alive remains alone. But if that grain falls to the earth and dies, it becomes a seed that produces a rich harvest.

He that loves his life shall lose it, but he that hates his life in this world shall keep it for eternity. Anyone who serves me must follow me; for where I am, there also shall my servant be. My father will honor those who follow me.

Choir: "Come Follow Me"

THIRD READING: *Matthew 26:26-29*

Narrator: On the first evening of Passover, Jesus sat down with the twelve disciples. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying:

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

Narrator: Then He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying:

Jesus: Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

But I say to you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Choir: "I Will Remember Thee"

Giving of Tithes & Offerings/Offertory

**Doxology*

FOURTH READING: *Matthew 26: 36-39*

Narrator: Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them:

Jesus: Sit here, while I go over there and pray.

Narrator: Then, He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them:

Jesus: My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even unto death. Stay here and keep watch with me.

Narrator: As He went a little further, He fell to the ground and prayed saying:

Jesus: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet, not as I will, but as You will.

Choir: "My Soul Cries Out to the Lord"

FIFTH READING: *Matthew 26:47-50, 57, 69-75*

Luke 22:66-71; 23:1-3, 13, 20-21, 44-46

Narrator: And it came to pass that Jesus was betrayed by His disciple, Judas, and was arrested and led before the high priest, Caiaphas. And His beloved disciple, Peter, denied knowing Him, three times by the break of day, as Jesus had foretold.

At daybreak, the elders of the people and the chief priest and the scribe came together, and Jesus was led before them. They asked:

All: Are you the Messiah?

Narrator: And He answered:

Jesus: If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I question you, you will not answer me. But from this time forward shall the Son of Man be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

Narrator: Then they asked:

All: Are you, then, the Son of God?

Narrator: And He replied:

Jesus: You say that I am.

Narrator: Then they said:

All: Why do we need more testimony, for we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.

Narrator: Then the whole multitude arose and led Him off to Pilate. Pilate could find no guilt in Jesus, but the crowd cried out:

All: Crucify Him!

Narrator: And Jesus was led away, was crucified, and died.

Choir: "And the Crowd Cried Out" "The Power of the Cross"

SIXTH READING:- *Matthew 28:1-3, 5-8*

Narrator: After the Sabbath, at the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. The angel said to the women:

Angel: "Fear not, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen from the dead, just as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples, "He is risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him."

Narrator: So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with great joy, and they ran to tell His disciples the news.

SEVENTH READING: *Matthew 28:16-20*

Narrator: Then the eleven disciples went away to Galilee, to a mountain where Jesus had told them to go. And when they saw him, they worshipped Him, though some still doubted Him. Then Jesus came back and spoke to them saying:

Jesus: All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Choir: "Benediction"

(After a moment of private prayer, the choir will silently recess, followed by the Congregation.)